

10/511303 #3  
DT04 Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 OCT 2004

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Junichi NAKANO et al.

Application No.: New U.S. National Stage of  
PCT/JP03/010417

Filed: October 15, 2004

Docket No.: 121457

For: IMPACT-ABSORBING STEERING COLUMN APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- 2. Relevance of the non-English language reference 13 is discussed in the present specification.
- 3. The references 1, 4, 5-12 and 14 were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.
- 4. The present application was filed or entered the U.S. National Stage of the PCT after June 30, 2003. In accordance with the June 11, 2003, Notice waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patent and patent application publication references are not attached.
- 5. English language Abstracts of the non-English language references 6-13 are attached hereto.

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6. A computer-generated English language translation of the following Japanese references has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([http://www.jpo.go.jp]), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 6-13.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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| Form PTO-1449<br>(REV. 8-83)  |  | US Dept. of Commerce<br>PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br>121457 | APPLICATION NO.<br>New U.S. National Stage of<br>PCT/JP03/010417<br><b>107511303</b> |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  | APPLICANTS<br>Junichi NAKANO et al.               |                           |  |
|   |  | FILING DATE<br>October 15, 2004                   | GROUP                     |  |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER    | DATE       | NAME             | CLASS | SUB CLASS |
|------------------|----|--------------------|------------|------------------|-------|-----------|
|                  | 1. | US 6,224,104 B1    | 5/1/2001   | HIBINO           |       |           |
|                  | 2. | US 2002/0167157 A1 | 11/14/2002 | MATSUMOTO et al. |       |           |
|                  | 3. | 20040195811 A1     | 10/7/2004  | IMAMURA et al.   |       |           |
|                  | 4. | US 2002/0011724 A1 | 1/31/2002  | SATOU et al.     |       |           |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  |     | DOCUMENT NUMBER                       | DATE       | COUNTRY       | CLASS | SUB CLASS |
|--|-----|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------|-----------|
|  | 5.  | JP 49-68127                           | 6/13/1974  | JAPAN         |       |           |
|  | 6.  | JP A 2002-284017 w/abstract & transl. | 10/3/2002  | JAPAN         |       |           |
|  | 7.  | JP A 2002-67980 w/abstract & transl.  | 3/8/2002   | JAPAN         |       |           |
|  | 8.  | JP A 11-165643 w/abstract & transl.   | 6/22/1999  | JAPAN         |       |           |
|  | 9.  | JP A 2002-67978 w/abstract & transl.  | 3/8/2002   | JAPAN         |       |           |
|  | 10. | JP A 2002-67979 w/abstract & transl.  | 3/8/2002   | JAPAN         |       |           |
|  | 11. | JP A 10-53145 w/abstract & transl.    | 2/24/1998  | JAPAN         |       |           |
|  | 12. | JP A 2001-278071 w/abstract & transl. | 10/10/2001 | JAPAN         |       |           |
|  | 13. | JP A 2002-79944 w/abstract & transl.  | 3/19/2002  | JAPAN         |       |           |
|  | 14. | GB 2 331 964 A                        | 6/9/1999   | GREAT BRITAIN |       |           |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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EXAMINER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE CONSIDERED \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.